AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method of implementing a tree of distributed objects, wherein a central directory ~~is~~ stores information related to objects in a data structure at a root of the tree, said method comprising one of:

assigning to a father object in a process, for each of one or more son objects, information corresponding to a physical address when at least one of said each of one or more son objects is contained in a same process, and

assigning to a father object in the process, for each of one or more son objects, information referring back to said central directory when another at least one of said each of one or more son objects is not contained in the same process,

wherein the process is a program and the father object is a software entity in the process.

2. (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, further comprising when the central directory receives a request for access to a first object identified by a logical name identifying a logical access path of said first object from the central directory, the central directory searching a data structure of the central directory for a logical name received in order to send the request directly to said first object or, when said logical name is not in the central directory, the central directory searching for a logical name with a longest character string equal to a first part of the character string of the logical name received, in order to send to said father

object the request, by providing said father object with information corresponding to the logical access path of the first object relative to said father object.

3. (previously presented): The method according to claim 2, further comprising said father object which receives said request sending the request to said first object when said first object is a son object of the process of the father object or returns a message to the central directory.

4. (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, further comprising the central directory managing redundancy of processes by selecting one of the processes relating to a requested object.

5. (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, further comprising when said father object of the process receives a request relating to at least one of said one or more son objects directly, said father object returning that request to the central directory when said at least of said one or more son objects is not contained in the process of said father object.

6. (previously presented): The method according to claim 5, wherein the at least one of said one or more son objects is identified in said request by a logical name defining a first logical access path of said at least one of said one or more objects from said father object, and wherein said father object returns said request to the central directory with a first character string of said logical name preceded by a second character string corresponding to a logical name of said father object defining a second logical access path from the central directory.

7. (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the central directory contains at least information relating to each root object of each process.

8. (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the method applies to a distributed object environment based on a manager of a CORBA type.

9. (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the method applies to a distributed object environment based on a manager of a DCOM type.